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26 May 1959

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Goodyear Representative on Powered Balloons - 25 May 1959

1. The undersigned this date met with [redacted] 25X1  
of Mr. Bissell's Staff and Messrs [redacted] of Goodyear Aircraft 25X1  
Company. The Goodyear representatives wanted to discuss new ideas associated  
with high altitude lighter-than-air craft. [redacted] was the spokesman and had 25X1  
"general" ideas but no figures with him. The idea mentioned was a vehicle  
that could combine aerodynamic and static lift by making an air-foil shaped  
blimp. For very high altitudes liquid hydrogen was to be used as a fuel  
for a chemical engine. Since no estimated performance figures were obtain-  
able there was little to talk about and it was apparent to the undersigned  
that the Goodyear representatives were on a "fishing expedition". [redacted] made 25X1  
the statement that a sphere has the most efficient volume to surface area  
ratio so naturally if the sphere were pushed or distorted into some other  
shape this ideal ratio would be maintained (as long as it was a sphere  
originally). This bit of nonsense cast some doubts on the little else the  
man had to say. He was asked by the undersigned if Goodyear considered plastic  
films for high altitude blimp work and the answer given was "only for very  
high altitude - those approaching outer space", otherwise fabric was considered.  
The question was rephrased: "how big a blimp would be needed to go to  
100,000 feet with four or five hundred pound payload". [redacted] stated he didn't 25X1  
have the figures but it might be around three million cubic feet. Obviously  
his answers were not supported by very much advance calculations, one mil  
plastic material would require four million cubic feet. fabric would in-  
crease this volume by at least a factor of two. [redacted] had to 25X1  
catch a plane and wanted to finish a discussion on subjects not knowledgeable  
to the undersigned therefore no summary type discussion with [redacted] 25X1  
was possible at the time.

[redacted]

25X1

File - Balloon, Powered

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